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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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## DENGUE IN FLORIDA.

Dr. Joseph Y. Porter, State health officer of Florida, reported October 31 that dengue was present in Tampa, Gainesville, Miami, and Key West, Fla.

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## TRACHOMA, A SANITARY PROBLEM.

As noted elsewhere in this issue, trachoma has been found to be widely prevalent in the mountain region of Kentucky. Out of approximately 4,000 people examined in this locality, 500, or 12½ per cent, were found to have the disease. The examination of school children in the various mountain counties showed that from 3 per cent in some counties to 18 per cent in others were affected. It is evident that the disease has been present among these native-born Americans for many years. With trachoma so prevalent in the mountain districts of Kentucky it is quite likely that similar conditions will be found to exist in the contiguous mountain regions of Tennessee, West Virginia, and Virginia, and possibly of North Carolina.

Trachoma has also been found to be a very common disease among the Indians in this country and especially among those living on reservations. The disease appears to be much more prevalent in the United States than had been previously believed to be the case.

Although the causal organism in trachoma has not as yet been discovered, the disease is known to be communicable and is believed to be contagious. It is a serious malady, reducing very markedly the efficiency of those affected and, if untreated, causes impaired vision in a large proportion of cases and blindness in not a few.

Wherever present to any great extent the disease is a public-health problem of no small importance and its eradication, which is necessary for the welfare of the community, will require patient and systematic work on the part of the health authorities and the cooperation of the people.

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## SEVEN-DAYS FEVER.

The occurrence in the Canal Zone during the past summer of a number of cases of what appears to have been the seven-days fever, previously reported only in India and the ports of southeastern Asia,